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The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

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OUR WORKING CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS.

BY MRS. HARRIET M. VAN DER VAART,

Chairman Industrial Committee of the Federated
Women's Clubs.

Every thoughtful and intelligent man and woman believes in labor, believes in work for man, woman and child; knows there is a very close relationship between the growth and progress of a nation or an individual, and their occupations.

We are all cognizant of the fact that many of our greatest men have come from the laboring classes, and realize that the manual labor in their lives has been one of the potent factors that has helped to develop them into reliable, substantial citizens.

But labor, though one of the greatest incentives in life, may be of two kinds. It may be educational and stimulating or it may be paralyzing and deadening. If the interest is taken out of it, if the worker is cut off from any relationship to the ultimate object or use of the work; if all possibility of working out an ideal is eliminated, the life principle is gone.

A few generations ago the children of the community were getting a large part of their education from the industrial world, from the occupations that naturally fell to them. When the wheat was raised on the farm, ground into flour in the village, made into bread in the kitchen; when the shoemaker went from house to house with his kit of tools and made the shoes for the members of the family for the year; when sheep were raised on the farm, and the wool was cut, washed, carded, spun, dyed, woven into cloth, and then made into garments for the men and women as well as the boys and girls of the family, all on the same little farm. Meeting the necessities and wants of the family and of the community was the object of work that was constantly held before the minds of the children.

The demand then upon the public school was small compared to the demand of to-day. Reading, writing, arithmetic, largely met the need of the child. He learned the rules, ac-

quired the tools, that he could put into practice in his every day work. His pleasures were largely the reward of tasks well accomplished. There was a unity and harmony in the child's life that gave the opportunity for an all around development. The working child was the thinking child, the playing child. How is it with increasing numbers of our children today?

Since the introduction of machinery our industries have become so complicated that the educational factor and the intellectual stimulus have been almost entirely eliminated from the industrial world. One pair of shoes passes through perhaps one hundred pair of hands before they reach the feet of the wearer.

The child is exceptionally educated who associates the sheep with the garment he may be wearing. The little girl in the soap factory works "on a score"—that is, she wraps in two wrappers, three thousand cakes of soap a day to make three dollars a week. When this score can be easily accomplished, she takes the next until she reaches what is the present limit—six thousand cakes per day.

One cannot watch her without realizing that every nerve and muscle of her body is under a strain to accomplish the greatest speed possible. Of course the stimulant is constantly before her, to complete the score she is making and pass to the next. There is no educational factor in the work, nor any intellectual stimulus. All physical energy is exhausted to increase rapidity of motion, and what is the object held before her—material gain—dollars and cents.

The same conditions exist more or less in all factory life for children—the same physical waste, the lack of nourishment for the mental faculties (which means degeneration) and the elimination of the ideal. Physically, mentally and morally, is our industrial world to-day restricting the development of the larger number of our working children.

Think of the little boys working all night in the glass factories between a blazing furnace in front and two brilliant electric lights at the side. How long can we expect eyes under such a strain to remain perfect? Look

at the almost baby newsboys and girls on the streets of Chicago after dark.

Think of the influences surrounding our messenger service for both boys and girls. Visit our stock yards. Go into the canning and stuffing rooms. Look into some of the slaughtering pits. See the conditions and influences, physical and moral, thrown around boys in knee pants and girls wearing short dresses.

Find some of the small tobacco factories located in cellars and alleys, where there is little light, and fresh air is excluded, plumbing poor, sanitary conditions bad. Study the sallow emaciated children found at work in these places.

The one universal excuse for child labor always brought forward is the needed support for the widowed mother.

Let us first know that some man is not hiding behind the widow's garb, and depending upon what he considers his legitimate means of a revenue—his child. It might be well to look even deeper and study the causes that have been the means of so wiping out the manhood in the father, as to make him willing to depend upon his little child for support, for child labor is one of the results of deep seated wrongs. But evolution, growth, progress are slow and go step by step and the child is farthest "under the load."

I was in a court room a few weeks ago where a sickly mother was brought to the stand on a charge of a false affidavit; by her side was a delicate, white-faced little boy, through an interpreter (for she could not speak English) she confessed that the child was not fourteen, but said her husband was a cripple and she had consumption, and she did not know what else to do.

If a person is starving it is hard to refuse bread even though it is known the bread contains poison. In sacrificing the child the mother is sacrificing a possible future support, for a very inadequate one. In case the child should not be exhausted physically (which in this case was almost sure to happen) he would in nine cases out of ten become discouraged and disheartened and by the time he was twenty it is almost certain his earnings would amount to no more—if as much—as at twelve. In eight or ten years it is possible the state will have two to support, the mother in the poor house, the child possibly as a tramp or an incapable because prematurely worn out.

One's imagination looks into the future with wonder as to the men and women who will

be developed from the childhood that is so largely moulded by machinery. Does it not become the duty of the citizens of to-day to seriously consider the question how we are to give to the children of the community the educational factor that has been eliminated from the industrial world?

How are we to provide for the all around development necessary if the children of to-day are to grow into the citizenship that will promote the progress and welfare of our country? There is but one medium, one avenue, through which all the children of the community may be reached, and that is: Our Public School. Expert educators are working out in private schools the thought that work and play and education should together constitute one harmonious result in the mind of the child. These school experiments often seem like child's play and very artificial, compared with the same results of meeting the necessities of every day living, as the children of a few generations ago met them. But the old thought is taking root again in the educational world, society must complement each other.

It is as yet largely an intellectual perception; it has not reached the conscience of the people that in the words of Dr. Dewey, "What the wisest and best parent demands for his child, that must the community demand for its children." When the intellect and the conscience of the people are thoroughly awake to the importance of this one avenue that lies open to all the children of the community, the public school may become the revolutionizing factor that will eventually hold the industrial as well as the educational forces subordinate to the need and development of the child.

The immediate duty is first to watch with a jealous eye any infringement on the flexibility or freedom of the public school to see to it that more and more its doors are opened to the best educators and the most advanced thought. To stand guard against any tendency of the school to fall in line with our present industries, to eliminate the ideal and to educate our children to be money mongers.

The next near duty is to see that our laws guarding the working children are such as shall more and more compel children to take advantage of the school and shall allow them to enter the industrial world under as favorable conditions as possible. Our present compulsory school and child labor laws are so inadequate that they are not fulfilling the object for which they were created.

Our compulsory school law in Illinois only covers sixteen weeks of the school year. A child past twelve years of age need not begin school until the first of January, which opens the temptation to the parent to take advantage of these early fall months when there is the greatest demand for child labor and put the child to work. Our child labor law says: No child shall work until he is fourteen, which leaves a part of a year when he cannot work and need not be in school.

It is evident these two laws should be coordinated. If we say a child shall not work until he is fourteen we should say he must be in school until he is fourteen. The present clause of the child labor law, which prohibits children working under fourteen, is largely ineffective because of its inadequate provisions. In order that a child between fourteen and sixteen may work, the employer must have the parent's affidavit that the child is fourteen, which affidavit may be secured from any notary. There seems to be a general feeling among parents that these affidavits only mean getting permission to work. One case where a mother brought a child before a conscientious notary, offering to make affidavit that the child was fourteen. When asked if she would swear before the living God that the child was fourteen, answered, "No, I cannot do that; he *isn't* fourteen."

Often children are sent to some friend with the request to have the necessary paper made out, so that they may go to work. All working children know they must have this paper, and that they *must* say they are fourteen.

The three other main points of the present law are: First, prohibiting children working where there is danger from machinery. Second, prohibiting their working where they would be under immoral influences. And third, that they can only work ten hours in any one day. Very little thought has been given to the first, almost none to the second, the third has been fairly enforced.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT IN LAWS.

Two bills will be presented to the legislature this winter one whose main point is to have the compulsory school law cover the entire school year. The other, a child labor bill, the substance of which is contained in the following points:

To make it impossible for a child to work under fourteen at any gainful occupation, in any concert hall, theater, or place of amusement where liquor is sold or at any mercantile institution, store, office, laundry, manufacturing

establishment, bowling alley, passenger or freight elevator, factory or work shop or as messenger or driver within this state.

If a child wishes to work between the ages of fourteen and sixteen he must secure a certificate from the school he last attended, giving his school grade and age according to the school records. It provides that there be one central place (for connection with the board of education) where the affidavits can be obtained and the child's age must be proved either by the birth record or church or school record or baptism certificate. In such cases where no records can be obtained, the parent or guardian may go before the juvenile or county court and obtain the affidavit from the judge of such court. The new bill also provides that no child between the ages of fourteen and sixteen shall work before seven in the morning or after ten at night.

No child between the age of fourteen and sixteen shall work unless he can read and write simple sentences in the English language or is regularly attending night school. The responsibility is laid upon the citizens of Illinois, both for the sake of the child and for its own future citizenship to see that these bills become laws.

In our dealings with little children, our duty is to meet the need of the child. In meeting that need we are opening the way to the best possible future.

In our homes, our schools, our charities, our industrial world, we need to have held before us the old beautiful vision of the child that comes to us through the artist and the poet.

"Heaven lies about us in our infancy,
Shades of the prison house begin to close upon
the growing boy,

But he beholds the light and whence it flares,
He sees it in his joy.

The youth who daily farther from the east
Must travel, still to Nature's Priest,
And by the vision splendid
Is on his way attended."

Neighborhood House, Chicago.

Denver, Colorado, opens the new year with its first social settlement well established and rapidly gaining in attendance and effective support. "Neighborhood House" was opened on Santa Fe avenue by the Women's Association of Plymouth Congregational Church, which now shares its privileges and opportunities of service with several other churches of the city. Miss Semple, formerly a settlement worker in Chicago, is Head Resident.

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A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor
from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - Editor

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A Year

EDITORIAL.

Church Federation and the Settlements.

In a sensible and suggestive article contributed to *The Outlook*, Lillian W. Betts writes of the settlement idea and small communities, with the rare descriptive and impressive style which characterizes her remarkable book, "The Leaven in a Great City." She demonstrates the social waste in the division and competition of the forces of righteousness in small towns and cities. In the friendliest spirit toward both she contrasts the divided efforts of the churches where there is the greatest need of uniting all the forces to help the resourceless people of the town, with the settlement's social unification of the people of the city centers in helpful co-operation with each other and outside agencies. She urges this settlement idea upon the churches in making of themselves or by their combined effort "centers that bring all the people together, that create common interests, form a bank of knowledge where heads and hearts work together to lessen suffering, to stimulate hope, and to arouse interest in each one who makes a demand on its capital. These are the opportunities of every church in a community which has social problems due to poverty and overcrowding, and the absence of social life to lighten the burden of labor." She assures them that "no surer method of reaching the unchurched exists than that of undenominational effort for the community's good. And work for the children, as if to prove the truth of prophecy, 'A little child shall lead them,' wins the best that the best men and women have to give." If this be given, she ventures to prophesy, "Let the effort begin with work requiring personal service from those who have skill and knowledge. Slowly the barrier between the churches will melt away; needs and opportunities will not be separated by a name. There will come finally a community of interest representing the brotherhood which Christ's life epitomized for man's guidance in his life with his fellow-men."

The Social Promise of Church Federation in New York and Chicago.

Although still in its infancy, the Federation of Churches in the city of New York, under the able leadership of Dr. Walter Laidlaw, has already achieved such effective service as to give good ground for large social hope. It started with the high aim "to promote and assist the co-operation of the 1500 churches, settlements, and charitable institutions of New York City, in teaching religion and morality, in improving social and sanitary conditions, in fighting vice, and in raising the walls of the city whose builder and maker is God." The social service which the churches of many neighborhoods might render to their localities, are declared to be beyond the ability of single churches. A district federation is most feasible for bringing its institutions into harmonious, systematic and effective working order. The neighborhood churches and social institutions may only thus work for the improvement of the schools of their localities, for playgrounds, parks and libraries, and by such special union outdoor and indoor religious services as are determined among themselves.

With such social aims this Federation has fortunately from the start combined scientific spirit and method in its statistical research and tabulation. Its social analyses of the population of several assembly districts deserve to be classed with parts of Charles Booth's great work on "The Life and Labor of the People of London." Its quarterly publication, "Federation" is a remarkably solid and suggestive output.

As the settlement movement spreads to the smaller cities and towns it may not only set the type of such co-operation, but if it maintains the relations it should with the churches, it may promote their federation. Surely nothing could be more in line with the purpose and work of settlements than to render any possible help toward this consummation, which is more devoutly to be wished than almost any other. Auspicious to this end is the everywhere increasing friendliness and co-operation between the settlements and churches of every name. Whatever non-intercourse, much more antagonism may have ever existed between them, is now being considered as self-stultifying to both. What is bringing them into sane and self-respecting and reciprocally advantageous relationships is the twofold trend of the times toward giving an essentially religious sanction to the social movement, and an inevitable social direction to the religious movement.

"Not what I Have, but what I Do is my Kingdom."—Sartor Resartus.

A VISION OF PEACE.

BY WALLACE RICE.

Fittingly one dies for his country, sweet is the death she bestows;
Glad is the red field of battle, gayly the bright trumpet blows;
Forth as a bride to her bridegroom Death to the warrior goes.

Bitter the long life of duty seeking no laurels nor pay,
Striving with foes of the Nation grasping her honor as prey,
Glanced at askance by his fellows, walking the long, narrow way.

Gallant the charge and the onslaught cheering together to go;
Silent and lonely the warfare 'gainst an insidious foe:
Glory and death are the soldier's; hatred and life others know.

Fighting America's battles whether by land or by sea,
Who could be less than a hero under that Flag of the Free?
Read of, and cherish, and love them—such are the men all would be.

Treason is death in the army, death 's for the enemy's spy:
Think you no André nor Arnold dwells within sight of your eye?
Perfidy to great ideals, that you must strike till you die!

Vigilance, ceaseless, eternal, ever was Liberty's price:
If you are slaves 't was your fathers left you to slavish device;
Would you make slaves of your children? Sleep for a time—'t will suffice.

Truth is the right of your country: Lie, and she lies to your grief;
Honor, and that is your country's: Bribe, and you bribe her as lief;
Honesty, that is your country's: Thieve, and she, too, is a thief.

Too much the world thinks on Dives: Harken to Lazarus, too—
All of his sores are his country's: Heal them if you would be true—
Heal them, or share an infection you and your children must rue.

Never was minted a dollar equal in worth to a tear,
Never success worth the having gained through another soul's fear:
Smiles mark the highway to triumph when a man's title is clear.

Still at the eye of the needle Selfishness struggles his fill.
No man may serve God and Mammon: Love—Love alone—is God's will.
Scourged were the changers of money—Greed stands the root of all ill.

No end can justify evil—Piety, Culture and State
Stand as accursed for ever, else on Jehovah must wait:
Think you for "civilization" God will His Justice abate?

Dear is the thought of the Nation; dearer is Freedom to me;
Dearest of all through the ages, Truth, that alone makes us free:
Verity, Liberty, Country, grant us their union to see!

Plant high the Cross on the hill-top, thither in humbleness strive!
Offer no children to Mammon—luxury lets no man thrive;
Feed not our bravest to Moloch—must the unfittest survive?

Ever is war deed for savage, born of the ancestral taint.
Slay? So do beasts that shall perish: Where is Man's godlike restraint?
Leave them their teeth and their talons; leave him the fight of the saint!

Brave are the victors in combat; brave were the conquered as well.
Valor sits close by the dying; valor the living, too, spell.
Courage far finer than carnage Peace, serene, smiling can tell.

Beaten our swords into ploughshares, fortresses turned into schools,
Cavalry tilling the prairie, infantry busy with tools,
Navies deep laden with bounty—thus fair America rules.

Throughout the breadth of the Union happiness all the day long,
Ever a Hope for the nations, everywhere music and song,
Always our Stars the World's Conscience, Stripes against tyrants and Wrong.

Day of Good Will, speed your coming! Justice and Mercy, increase!
Love for the loveless, grow mighty! Hate for the hatefulest, cease!
So shall Man win his last battle led by the Christ who is Peace.

LONDON CHILDREN OUT TO TEA.

Though Percy Alden is no longer warden of Mansfield House or editor of the *London Echo*, evidently he is determined that he is not going to be lost to the cause and no action of his could be more characteristic than the use he has made of the columns of the *Echo* to raise a fund for giving a Christmas entertainment to thousands of the poor children of London's east end. One good meal, one evening's romp and jollity in a bright, warm room throughout the long, dark winter of privation—harder this year than for many previous—seems scant allowance to those whose childhood never lacked these things. But the reports of these entertainments in *The Echo* prove that they were great occasions to the recipients and not the least part of the satisfaction felt by Mr. Alden and those who contributed to his fund must lie in the expressions of gratitude received from public school teachers who are daily harassed by sights of the children's suffering and their own inability to relieve it, but who through this fund had been enabled for once to have their hearts' desire in seeing the children have a good time.

Here are some of the vivid scenes reported in the *Echo*:

"THE ECHO' Tea, Sir?" "Yes." "You're quite right, aren't the little rascals enjoying their selves?" When the door was opened the kids began to sing, and I thought it was a sight fit to set before the King. There they were, seated at long tables, in a large room, decorated in true seasonable fashion. The hunger exhibited on the faces of the girls and boys was in striking fitness with the desire to administer relief. To them the outward and visible signs of festivity stood for little until hunger and thirst had been coped with; then, and only then, did they condescend to note the work of other hands. And what a merry little crowd they proved to be after tea! In fact, that the industrial and educational factors in it took all the tact and energy of Mrs. Herbert Stead, to say nothing of her enormous bell, to manipulate with some degree of comfort these little children.

OUT OF WORK.

"How did you manage to collect them?" I asked of Mrs. Stead. "Well, you see," said Mrs. Stead, "we sent round to the schools and asked the teachers to give the tickets to those children whose fathers were out of work. And this is the result. All these children have fathers who have nothing to do." "And is

there much poverty in the neighborhood?" "Oh, yes, an extraordinary amount. Why, these few children here only stand for a very small section of Walworth." One case of a poor widow with three small children was distinctly interesting and indicative of the spirit with which many meet and endure their fate. She was presented with three tickets for "The Echo" tea, but during the week discovered some children worse off than her own, and promptly gave up her tickets to them. This was a noble act.

FASCINATING THE LITTLE ONES.

It always refreshes the heart to see children play. But to see the eye brighten and sparkle, and note the gay trip of tiny feet that more often than not hastened to bed superfluous was a sight fit for immortals. How the eyes wandered to the gigantic Christmas tree, surmounted by an ideal Father Christmas! What speculations were indulged in—during the games—as to what present would fall to their lot! Even the huge rocking-horse failed to fascinate the boys when presentation time came. Then all retired happy, laden with bags of sweets, nuts, and oranges, to remind them still further of the kind "Echo" subscribers.

THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR.

Oh for a poet with the sympathy and verve of Mrs. Browning! This is one of the needs of the age. To visit a children's merrymaking, where the youthful enthusiasm knows no bounds, and where appetite is not restricted by the cautious appeal of the suffering mother to take thought for the morrow, is to catch a glimpse of the true ministering value of wealth. And what an extraordinary life most of these little bairns live! After school hours there is no place for them at the fireside; there is the open door, and the cold, relentless street. One is ever struck by the manner in which they take their little problems and trials.

CHILDREN'S STORIES.

Extreme hunger never destroys their sense of humor. You might almost imagine that this quality expanded amid their depressing environment of poverty. Hungry or not, they are always keenly alive to every passing event, and able to perceive in most things somewhat of life's incongruity. It is difficult to forget the quaint apology of the child who was late for "The Echo" tea because an uncle had taken her for an "exertion." And equally hard to refrain from laughing over the remark of the little girl who experienced some little difficulty

in performing a certain task, and was reminded by her aunt that Rome was not built in a day; therefore, she must persevere. Quick as lightning came the answer, "Oh, aunty, how can you talk so? Don't you know that it took God only six days to make the whole world? and I don't suppose He spent more than half an hour on Rome!"

HOMELESS AND SUPPERLESS.

It is their ability to recognize the humorous as well as utilize it that makes life at all endurable, and prevents even worse disorders than at present prevail. But they must be fed and clothed! What man worthy of the name can retire at night feeling at all comfortable, when so many of these homeless and supperless London children demand attention and thought? Have ye not met a

Young barefooted child,
Who begged loud and bold;
And ask'd her what she did abroad
When the wind it blew so cold?

These

Know the grief of man, but not the wisdom;
They sink in man's despair, without its
calm—

Are slaves, without the liberty in Christdom—

Are martyrs, by the pang without the palm—
Are worn, as if with age.

Can we not do something to increase their ray
of sunshine and disperse the coming gloom?

Mrs. Barnett's Plea for the Children.

Sir,—I am so glad that you are calling the attention of your readers to the joylessness of the lives of the children of the poor, whether they live in the waste of mean streets east of the Bank or south of the river. It is good news that your fund daily mounts upwards, but it would be still better news if your readers would offer to entertain, say, six or eight of these sad little ones by inviting them to tea and sharing with them quiet homestead joys and fireside pleasures that do not excite. Those who would thus entertain the poor would be much rewarded.

In exceptional times of distress people think and talk much of the poor, and are wishful in their impatient kindness to aid hundreds of them by one meal. If they would be content to aid one by hundreds of meals it would be wiser, and by moulding even a few young lives into a nobler pattern these periods of sad distress would touch fewer, for it is the unskilled, the casual, and the degraded who specially suffer.

It is not only at Christmas time that the children's lives are pleasure-barren. During the long, hot, sultry days they suffer, I think, even more than in the winter, and need memory-making outings. So it is good, Sir, that you are giving your money to the Settlements, who have the poor always around them, and who can take small, drooping people to fresh air "a-Maying" or "a-nutting," as well as gather them around the candle-lit Christmas tree.

"Don't you remember?" "How can you forget?" I have been often asked by children whose joys are too few to pass out of their memories, and who live and relive every hour of these precious holidays over again. "I don't want to be here, it ain't fair, it should be mother, who's at work," sobbed one small maiden of eleven, whose righteous little soul had burst out in revolt against the inexplicable inequalities of social deserts. I am sure that much of the practice of pocketing cake arises from the desire to share the "lovely things" at home. So it is well to recognize the good intention underlying the bad action, and provide each child with a cake or food gift "to take home to mother."

The choice of toys for the children of the poor has to be considered in relation to their lives, both child and parents welcoming round games—of skill, not of chance—which can be played on the small home table, and by all the family together. "It ain't no use to me—I can't play no game as I knows of, but I don't mind a drum or a whip, if you've got 'em," was the ungracious method of acceptance of an offered game by a toyless lad—and the pathos of it is that it is true—the children of the poor do not know parlor games.

I hope, Sir, that your readers will give you money, and invite the poor to their own nice homes, that they will each get to know one poor child intimately, and serve him or her by thought, word, and deed, in sorrow and joy.

HENRIETTA O. BARNETT.

Warden's Lodge,

Toynbee Hall, Whitechapel.

P. S.—If anyone cares to give little parties to little people, I can easily find them their guests—either in winter or in summer. Country parties can always get tea at our rest house, Erskine House, Hampstead Heath.

"Give us, oh, give us the man who sings at his work."

"It is an everlasting duty, the duty of being brave."—On Heroes.

The Chicago Visiting Nurses' Association.

EXCERPTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, MISS HARRIET FULMER.

The nurses always do far more than the actual nursing work. They teach the poor to share each other's burdens. Poor crippled Mrs. B. is mending stockings for the children of Mrs. A., who is ill. And Mrs. B. says to the nurse, "Don't stay with me long to-day, I know Mrs. A. needs you more"—just the very spirit the nurse had so hoped to awaken in cross, old Mrs. B. In this family she certainly did more than the nursing, but it took weeks of gentleness and patience on the part of the nurse. Once in a while we find a criticism from the doctor, never from a patient, so our purpose is reached when we please the people we are employed to serve. The following will illustrate how far we unconsciously influence both the sick and the well. A visiting nurse had been on her rounds since early morning. Three consumptives, four new babies, three typhoids, and a pneumonia case had received her care. It was six o'clock at the last case, when a neighbor came in and remonstrated at her leaving, saying: "You do be paid by the city and ye have no right to be going home at six. Ain't ye's one of them 'trimmed' nurses that can go without sleepin' and eatin'?" After watching the nurse for a week, however, she was one of our best friends, and her praise "that John Murphy would have died without that 'trimmed' nurse" has brought us many cases since in the same locality.

We are called "visiting nurses" because we visit from house to house each day, and return the following day to repeat the service. The bitterest day in winter, the hottest day in summer, the pouring rain, are all alike to the visiting nurse. She must make her rounds fifteen minutes here, thirty there, an hour here, another there, down this alley, five floors up in the rear, through to the street, second floor front, then down to the alley and perhaps many miles across prairies to a little cottage. All these places know her well, and not for one day or a week but for weeks and months at a time, day in and day out, year in and year out. There is not a nook or cranny of the city, from Pullman to Lake View, from Oak Park to the lake, that does not know her.

IN CLOSEST CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE.

The Chicago Society stands for teaching the people in their own environment, the care of their own sick and the right observance of sanitary laws; for meeting the great inade-

quacy of city and county institutions, which are intended for the indigent sick; and for dealing with such cases for which no institution provides, giving the same skilled nursing care as the rich may provide for themselves.

No institution or organization caring for unfortunates in Chicago comes more in close and daily contact with its people than the Visiting Nurses Association. Every family visited does not need the nursing care only, but advice and help in hundreds of other ways. Cases that hospitals never hear of, that relief societies do not come to, are cared for by this association. No set of workers could better discover unsanitary conditions as they enter the homes in friendly relation to the people. No set of workers can possibly be better authorities on the inadequacy of hospital service both for children and adults in Chicago. This demonstrates the scores of cases brought by the visiting nurses to Dr. Lorenz's clinic. The nurses know from actual daily experience that little children are suffering for lack of care, both in contagious diseases and from deformity.

OFFICIAL STATUS AND CO-OPERATION NEEDED.

They were also instrumental, by permission of the Superintendent of Schools, in visiting every school in the city and distributing leaflets containing advice to the children for personal cleanliness. To all the children who could afford it, the visiting nurse furnished soap and towel and tooth-brushes. In this way, according to the teachers, much good advice was circulated and the nurses became of service in the various families through the children. Buffalo and Los Angeles are the only cities in America where the nurses of the association are permanent inspectors. During the summer the fourteen nurses were voluntary inspectors under the Department of Health. Closer co-operation than ever before has been maintained with all the organizations in the city.

CONTAGIOUS-DISEASE SERVICE.

The nurse's work on contagious diseases this year has been particularly satisfactory, though the work is largely that of instruction, because she cannot with safety go from house to house. However, many families have had actual nursing service rendered in scarlet fever and diphtheria, when there was no one else to care for the patients. Large washable gowns and caps are provided for this especial work and every precaution against spread of infection is taken.

DISTRICT LOAN CLOSETS.

The loan closets, one in each of the twelve districts, have been kept well supplied throughout the year. The contents of these closets amount in money value to \$69 each, and are replenished twice yearly, at great expense to the association. Their value is untold. Among the valuable articles in them are nightgowns, sheets, pillow cases, towels. These are loaned from case to case, laundered and replaced throughout the year. The nightgowns are loaned to the little B. girl, four sheets to the H. family with typhoid, four pillow slips to Mr. B., a paralytic, a pair of crutches here and a water bag there. Certainly no emergency could be of more value than this. The people are coming to consider it a privilege to borrow from the nurse, and feeling an obligation in returning the articles. The Scott Emergency Fund has paid for fifty-two weeks continuous nursing service in the home, for eighteen cases, from a period of two to six weeks each. The plan of sending a woman to clean and put in order the homes has been most satisfactory, thus saving the strength of the nurse for actual nursing work, for which she is really employed.

The visiting nurse work is not carried on in the country on a large scale, but forty-two societies are in existence embracing not more than one hundred and fifty paid workers. In England the same work is done by the Queen Nursing Society, in every nook of the country, employing some nine hundred nurses. Elsewhere in America, the value of the work is given much greater public recognition than in Chicago. In New York and Philadelphia the nurses are part of the recognized medical inspection in the city schools. In Buffalo and Los Angeles they are permanent unpaid Department of Health inspectors. In New York many of them serve on the tenement hospital inspecting committee.

ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS CRUSADE.

The visiting nurses are now putting forth plans to bring the attention of the public to the great need of taking organized step in a tuberculosis crusade as other cities have done. The new cases of consumption number 226 in one year. Of the deaths 60 were due to this disease. Few of the cases reported know anything of the nature of this disease. One man living alone, when reported to us, had been accustomed to spitting wherever he happened to be sitting. Literally, everything in the room was covered with the sputum. The milk-

man who came to him every morning brought a bottle of milk, and took away the empty one covered with germs, left standing in the sink where the patient was apt to expectorate at any time. When the nurse had talked to the man about it, it came out that he had not realized that he had a communicable disease. This man's soiled bedding, clothing, etc., was taken by a general laundry and washed with other clothes without any idea that disinfection was necessary. Now this room has been thoroughly cleaned, the filthy bedding burned, and new things provided, and every attempt made to see that the patient carried out the instruction to prevent a further spread of contagion. Another case was a young man with tuberculosis of the hip and lungs as well. He had been changing his own dressings and being able to get about the old dressing had been thrown in a corner to lie for days. Every possible precaution was given. Another case is a young German widow found sleeping with her children, three beautiful little ones. This was not from ignorance, but from necessity. They had but one bed. A separate bed has been provided for the children (new and clean). I cite these cases to show after all how far short we all come from real interest in the sanitary welfare of our city. If these cases were smallpox they would be ferreted out and immediately isolated, but when every evidence of this great white plague is right in our midst we dally and deliberate and death and infection still go on. Many people may discuss this question in a vague sort of way. They know from public statements that consumption claims so many victims every year, but the exact state of affairs they cannot conceive of. The visiting nurses do not guess at these things, they know from actual contact the exact conditions that exist, that 226 people, and that a small portion of the cases that really exist, are suffering with this disease. The nurses are trying as best they can to alleviate the condition, but after all their effort is but a drop in the bucket, compared to the real needs of the situation. They have nursed, cared for and instructed the cases that have come to us, but the state and the city should stand sponsor in a public way for a war against this disease, and the furthering of plans of giving adequate care to those already suffering. The association is in active co-operation with the Illinois Society for the Suppression of Consumption.

"Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness."

ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS, NEW YORK CITY.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY
MARY KINGSBURY SIMKHOVITCH,
26 Jones Street, New York City.

The Prevention of Tuberculosis.

In the course of lectures given last summer in the New York Summer School in Philanthropic Work under the auspices of the Charity Organization Society, one of the addresses which made a most profound impression upon the students was that delivered by Mr. Robert W. de Forest, President of the New York Charity Organization Society. His subject was "The Scope and Purpose of a Charity Organization Society," and he said in substance that "everything is germane to a charity organization society which is needed in the community and is not already well done. There is no limit to the scope of a charity organization society effort except that made by concentrating your forces and refraining from doing what others are doing well. It must be a growing, developing society, able to meet new needs and grapple with new conditions." In its endeavor to fulfill the ideal set by its President, the Charity Organization Society of New York has initiated from time to time movements which to the casual observer would seem to be out of the pale of the work of such an organization. Such a movement is the recently organized Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis. The ravages of this disease, so aptly termed by Holmes as "the White Plague," and which is the cause of one-seventh of the deaths of mankind, has, 'tis true, of late years somewhat decreased. It still stands, however, at the head of the list of fatal diseases. It is estimated that in the whole world on an average two persons a minute die of the disease.

With the discovery by Koch in 1882 that the disease was caused by a germ, the "Tubercle Bacillus," the way was prepared for the discovery of some method of destroying the germ. It has since been conclusively proved that sunshine, fresh air, proper nourishment and the proper care of the body are the most destructive agencies that can be brought to bear upon this enemy of man. It has also been proved very conclusively that the disease is curable and post mortem examinations have shown an immense number of cases where the disease had once existed but had been cured and was in no way the cause of death.

Of late years there has, therefore, been organized in European countries efforts to prevent the spread and make possible the cure of the disease. Anti-tuberculosis societies have been formed in England, Germany, France and other European countries, and a conference of the International Central Committee was held in Berlin the latter part of October. In this country societies have been organized in various states, notably in Pennsylvania. In New York City no society for this purpose has hitherto been formed. An attempt was made last winter to form a society for the prevention of Tuberculosis, but certain difficulties prevented the matter from being carried through. The persons who signed the call for that society have endorsed the movement begun by the Charity Organization Society and the committee formed is a most representative one. Sixteen of the leading physicians of the city are members of it, as are also representative philanthropic and charity workers. The work of the committee will naturally divide itself along three lines.

First, that of investigation. Arrangements have been made for scientific researches. A trained statistician has been employed by the committee. Comparisons of death rate from consumption with the density of population; a study of infected houses; a study of occupations and of nationalities in their relation to the prevalence of the disease, will be undertaken. The various city departments, such as the Department of Health, the Department of Public Charities and the Tenement House Department—the commissioners of all three departments being members of the committee—have placed at the disposal of the committee the facts in their possession concerning the extent of the disease in this city. Blanks containing questions which the committee desires to have answered have been given to the officials of these departments, who will obtain in this way the information desired.

The second line of work will be that of education. Arrangements have been made for lectures to be held at various places in the city where audiences can be secured. The various branches of the Young Men's Christian Association have given their cordial support to this movement; the Young Women's Christian Association has placed its hall at the disposal of the committee, and almost all the Settlements of the city and several of the institutional churches have done the same. Dr. Leipziger, who has charge of the Lecture Department of the Board of Education, is very

much interested in the matter and will arrange for lectures in that course. The President of the Normal College will also arrange for lectures to the young ladies, 2,800 in number, at that institution. He says that he will recommend their taking notes and reviewing their notes, as he considers the matter as of the greatest importance to them and to the homes from which they come.

The third line of work will be that of application. A trained nurse and a visitor will be connected with the committee, and cases brought to the attention of the committee will be investigated by them and proper relief suggested. In some cases, perhaps, exceptional relief will be given.

It is hoped by these three methods to attain to a knowledge of the extent of the disease in the city and the localities, occupations and nationalities most susceptible to it. Also to spread by lectures and popular pamphlets written knowledge which will aim to prevent the spread of the disease, and, by giving sufficient relief, effect cures where otherwise a cure might be too expensive for the individual. The purpose, in short, of the committee may be best stated in the following words, written by the editor of "Charities": "To prevent premature deaths, to preserve wage-earners to their families, to lessen the amount of human suffering, to obviate much of the existing danger of infection, is the end at which we aim."

On the day Horace Mann left the presidency of the State Senate to become the secretary of the Board of Education he wrote: "Henceforth as long as I hold this office I devote myself to the supremest welfare of mankind upon earth. With the highest degree of prosperity results will manifest themselves but slowly. The harvest is far distant from the seed time. Faith is the only sustainer. I have faith in improbability of the race, in their accelerating improbability. This effort may do apparently but little, but merely beginning a good cause is never little." His comment on the parsimony of the legislature that appropriated only \$1,500 to the support of his secretaryship of the Board of Education, four-fifths of which were consumed by the expenses of the office, was: "Well, one thing is certain, I will be revenged on them. I will do them more than \$1,500 worth of good."

"What is the use of health, or of life, if not to do some work therewith?"—Sartor Resartus.

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EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY
CAROLINE WILLIAMSON MONTGOMERY,
5548 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago.

The New York State Reformatory for Women at Bedford, N. Y.

Some seventeen years ago the first reformatory for women in the state of New York was opened. It was called the House of Refuge for Women and was located at Hudson, about thirty miles below Albany. From time to time the laws governing commitments to it have been modified as circumstance or experience dictated. In the past it has received women as old as forty and girls as young as twelve years of age. At first the maximum term was five years. At one time women committed for short terms—three to six months—were received, and commitments could be made from any part of the state. Women convicted of a felony could not be sent there. As time went on it was found that few commitments were made from the western end of the state or from New York City. It was deemed advisable to place another similar institution in each of these localities, both because it seemed impossible to overcome the objections magistrates seemed to feel against sending young girls to extreme parts of the state, and because it was thought that the best results could be obtained in comparatively small institutions.

Accordingly, eight years ago the House of Refuge at Albion was opened, and in 1902 the State Reformatory for Women at Bedford was incorporated. Later the state laws governing the three institutions were made uniform. The territory of the state was apportioned between them, Albion receiving commitments

from the western and central counties, Hudson from the northern and eastern counties and Bedford from Westchester County, Greater New York and Long Island. Territorially Bedford has a very small section of the state, but this section contains more than half the total population.

In accordance with Chapter 546 of the Laws of 1896, Article IX and subsequent amendments, women between the ages of fifteen and thirty years may be committed to these three institutions from their respective territories by any magistrate or court having jurisdiction, as a common prostitute or a habitual drunkard, for frequenting disorderly houses, for petty larceny or any misdemeanor; by Chapter 114 of the Penal Code, as amended in 1900, a woman between the specified ages may be committed for any felony provided it be a first offense. The maximum term is three years and the Board of Managers have the power to parole at any time.

The Boards of Managers consist of six persons, of whom two must always be women and one a practicing physician. They are appointed by the governor of the state for terms of three years. This Board appoints the superintendent and the superintendent appoints the subordinate officers and employees, subject to the Civil Service laws of the state.

It has been said that Bedford was incorporated in 1902. For a number of reasons, largely political, there were many troublesome delays and the grounds and buildings did not approach completion until the summer of 1900. A superintendent was appointed in the fall of that year who at once began the work of pushing things to completion, furnishing the buildings and selecting the officers necessary for opening. By April, 1901, work was so well advanced that the magistrates of our territory were notified that we were ready to receive inmates, and the first one came to us May 11. For the first six months our growth was very slow. The courts and magistrates of New York were accustomed to make commitments to the work house and the penitentiary, or to various private institutions, and in cases of felony to the State Prison at Auburn. It took some time for them to learn of our work and to become convinced of the desirability of the long term commitment with the possibility of parole, and the certainty of instruction and discipline rather than the customary fine or "three months at the Island." Now, at the end of twenty months, we are already confronted with the problem of insufficient accommodations.

We have had 230 commitments and have a present population of 195. The original capacity was 256, but this was cut down to 226 by altering certain cells into rooms. This capacity is still further reduced by the insufficient number of rooms provided for officers and who must therefore occupy some of the rooms intended for inmates. There are still sixteen months before sentences will begin to expire, and even with the greatest possible exercise of the parole power consistent with wisdom we shall probably be sadly overcrowded before legislative appropriations will be made to enable us to build new cottages.

For the rest as to our material equipment, we are situated in a beautiful spot in picturesque Westchester County about forty miles north of New York City. We have 107 acres of land prettier to look at than to farm, though we do manage to raise our summer vegetables. Our water supply is of the best and our sewerage excellent. We have plenty of delightfully fresh air, and in early June the most magnificent wild strawberries ever picked—and in profusion. We have a clear, cool trout stream running through a wooded valley and emptying into a pretty pond where we skate and cut our ice in winter. Even overcrowding, bad as it will be, cannot deprive us of these joys.

The interesting feature of the institution, however, that to which everything else is subordinated and for which everything else exists is our girls. We call them all "our girls," no matter what their age.

One of the primary interests in each College or Social Settlement is always the clubs and classes for young women. The settlement worker who has been connected with these for any length of time will learn, if she has a love for her work and an insight into human nature, much of the sort of girl who frequents the clubs; what her home life is like; what her associates have been; what the conditions are under which she earns her living; what opportunities she has for amusements and what for education; what her social and moral standards are and what has made them what they are; what temptations she must meet and what the forces are that make her try to live up to her standards. In short, she will learn a great deal about the genus girl in general and what differentiates the particular species of girl who comes under her influence. The more she learns, if she is the right sort, the more influence she will have and the more valuable she will be as a settlement worker—the more valuable anywhere, in any com-

munity, for that matter. And of very special value could she make herself if after this training she saw fit to devote her energies to the field of activity open in the reformatories for women throughout the country.

A moment ago the problem of overcrowding was mentioned. Still more serious is the problem ever present of finding the right women to do the work. Just as within very recent years the belief that "any woman knows enough to teach little children" has been discredited and as the companion notion that any kind old lady who is willing to attempt it is fitted to take care of the sick has been replaced by the conviction that a hospital training is necessary for a professional nurse, so it is gradually coming to be recognized, in some quarters at least, that training of some sort is imperatively needed for those intrusted with the even more difficult and delicate task of moral cure, if results for the individual and thus for the state are to be attained in any way commensurate with the money and energy expended by the state.

Consider for a moment the kind of girl who comes to Bedford. We can say "kind" only so far as all have come within reach of the arm of the law. The "kinds" are many. Convicted of almost every offense except murder, we have representatives from almost every country of Europe. Emotional Russian Jews, fiery Italians, quick-tempered Irish, stolid Poles, voluble French, with Germans, Scandinavians, Roumanians, Spanish, Hungarians and a mixture of colored and white native-born Americans, to all of whom a variety of adjectives might with propriety be applied.

During the last fiscal year 21 per cent of those committed could not read or write English, and a little over 10 per cent could not read or write any language. Nearly 10 per cent could not speak English. Six individuals were high school graduates. There were only 35 out of 148 committed of native American parentage, and of these 17 were colored women. All but 21 were committed from Greater New York.

When we investigate the causes which have brought these young women to us we find in a very high percentage of cases that the immediate cause is the desire to have a good time coupled with a distaste for regular work. The desire to have a good time is perfectly normal, and common to all girls. But when this is accompanied, as it is in most of our girls, by such factors of a bad heredity, as a weak will, lack of vitality, a depraved appe-

tite, lack of moral sense or low mentality, the effects are disastrous. Almost always environment has played an important part, and in a considerable per cent of cases we believe that under other circumstances these girls would have gone through life perfectly respectable and respected.

Our problem is to take this human material of such infinite variety and in three years at most so work with it as to undo the effects of the past; to strengthen and inspire with higher ideals, so that we may send the individuals out to a self-respecting, self-supporting life. No educational work is easy. This work makes the greatest possible demands upon the minds and hearts—and incidentally upon the tempers—of those engaged in it.

We have the ordinary school classes, reading, writing and arithmetic, drawing, geography, history and physiology, according to their needs, and these classes are attended half a day. The other half day is devoted to industrial training and the work of the institution. The girls are divided into two shifts, those who are in school in the morning having the industrial work in the afternoon, and vice versa. So far we give instruction in cooking, plain sewing and dressmaking, hand and steam laundry work and basket making. We require a half hour's gymnastic work each day from all who are not excused by the resident physician.

In all this work the important factor is the way and spirit in which it is done. The individuality of the instructors and particularly of the matrons of the cottages, who are brought most closely in contact with the girls, counts for most of all. They must have insight into human nature and some of that knowledge of the conditions from which these girls come—some of that kind of knowledge which I have said is gained by the settlement resident who has worked with the girls' clubs—if results are to be attained which even approximate to our ideals. No one should take up this work who wants an easy life, but among the college-bred and settlement-trained women who are looking for fields in which to make the greatest use of their talents there must be some to whom this opportunity for good work must appeal.

KATHARINE BEMENT DAVIS,
Former Head Worker Philadelphia College Settlement.

"A man shall and must be valiant; he must march forward and acquit himself like a man."
—On Heroes.

The Boston Settlements and Coal Distribution.

BY A DENISON HOUSE RESIDENT.

(In Boston Evening Transcript.)

To meet the desperate needs of the case, Hale House, South End House and Denison House co-operated in the work of helping their neighbors. Coal, in all too limited amounts, was carted to Hale House from the dealers, bagged and sent around to the urgent cases, and to the other two settlement houses, for local distribution.

At the very beginning, the settlement workers made such hasty survey of the field as they could, and told their neighbors of the chance to procure coal, without long and probably futile waiting in the crowds at the coal wharves. As soon as the word had been given, the doors of the houses saw a constant stream of boys with sleds, and men with wheelbarrows—or ready shoulders—come "after the coal," for the scarcity of it seems to have given it a right to the definite article. Not merely the old friends of a house, but the friends' friends came—"the lady that lives in the house with me"—and mothers and sisters and brothers without end. Kindly-disposed policemen, too, directed many an anxious searcher to "the house there"; and when the officers of the coal committee, in despair of filling their accumulated orders, sent their visitors to the same place, the labor involved for the house became considerable. But extra steps and other inconveniences were of slight consequence to one who had sight of the suffering humanity met with at every turn. The pitiful stories of need were distressing, and it was hard to have to turn any of the worried faces away; and now and then, but with wide space between, there was a hint of ungraciousness, which was a bit discomforting. But in general the ready understanding of the case on the part of the coal seekers, their appreciation and gratitude, their interesting comments, and chief, their kindness toward each other—these made one feel like saying, with one of the new workers, "Well, if it had to come, I'm glad I could be down here to see all this!"

One of the satisfying features of the affair, in the course of things, as watched at one of the houses, has been the scant number of demands for free coal. But after all, that is a satisfaction not unmingled with bitterness. It stings the self-respecting workman to be compelled to tramp from one company to another, waste time standing in the lines at the gates, and yet have it in his power to pay even the

present high prices. While the cold weather still held, the house was compelled to give out from its own private stock.

It seems cruel to try to draw a line. There is the couple who live in a basement, and basements in this part of town, reclaimed land as it is, are inevitably damp and rheumatism-breeding, bad enough even with a fire to take off their chill. There is the cabman who comes home at night half frozen. There is the woman who supports herself and two children by laundry work at her house. No coal spells for her no work, no money. Her little boy came to ask for her coal. "How can you take it home?" he was asked. "Have you a sled?" "No, I did have; but mother burned it this morning."

In the less pressing cases it is heartening to see how well people take their refusals. Single men who come after a hard day's work to ask for a little coal to warm their rooms, listen in silence to the explanations. "That's all right," they say at the end, "of course the sick folks and the babies must have the first show." And off they go once again on their hopeless quest. There was a woman who came to ask for a bag of "the" coal. She had eight children and little fuel of any kind. When she heard that even her case was not hard enough, she said: "All right. Me an' the children can get along, I guess. But there's a sick lady next door to me needs it bad. Could you send her some?" Sometimes those who had ordered send word that their bags can be given to somebody else who needs it more; some kindly "boss" has provided for them, or they have obtained enough from a wagon.

Such rare exceptions as these are to this almost uniform spirit of good will and co-operation, are often more amusing than unpleasant. One well-dressed citizen appeared with a complacent demand for coal at a crisis when the orders were "imperative necessity only." It seemed that he had a little coal, but not enough for two stoves. When refused, he indignantly stalked off in high rage. Then there was a woman who objected to the forty-five cents which was asked. "I know where I can get it for thirty," she cried; "pretty charity this is!" and muttered scathing things of the settlements individually and collectively, while she fumbled the door-latch. Some of those seeking coal came because the settlement price was lower than the dealers charged. They were sent away empty handed, unless it was plain that they could not afford the difference.

It is interesting always to hear what people have to say on the situation in general. As a rule there is a firm belief that the dealers are holding back their coal for making money, and are therefore the ones to be blamed as immediate occasion of the trouble. But the operators are felt to be behind it all. "Do you think there's any heaven for the folks that are doin' this thing?" asked one old woman in a piteous voice. To test her sympathies, someone said: "But you know some people blame it on the miners; it was their striking that began it all." "Sure, an' 't is not them I'm blamin', poor cratures," came the quick reply. "Small blame to them that's starvin' if they ask for more." "O, them anarchists!" one man grunted, between efforts to hoist his bag of coal to his shoulder. "They go and kill a good man like McKinley and let Morgan and them other fellows keep on livin'!" The women have a vague feeling that something is wrong with the country where such things can be. "They needn't ever ask me to sing 'America' again," one woman said. "A pretty country it is to treat us poor folks so!"

The things which make one happiest in these busy and anxious days are the continual outcroppings of a most beautiful view of "gentil deedes." Many a case of need is reported by some kindhearted neighbor, after he has done what he could for the sufferers. The good Samaritan comes in various guises, sometimes desperately ragged and needy himself, but anxious to help out "a widdy woman" or a sick neighbor, or some poor, old, feeble folk of his acquaintance, by carrying home their coal. Perhaps the good Samaritan even counts out the necessary pence from his not too well-filled purse, and half-ashamed, but wholly happy, carries off the precious bag to his distressed friend. A man in need of work had been asked to come and help fill the bags and deliver them, on the Sunday after the storm. When night came and he was paid for his hard day's work he handed back some of the small coins. "Fifteen cents an hour is all I get when I'm doin' this for my boss. He's makin' money out o' this, but youse ain't makin' a cent; I see that. Youse is doin' a heap o' good, an' I couldn't take the extra pay." Most pathetic of all, perhaps—if there is a "most" here—was a man who had been given a bag of free coal. Some kind neighbor had reported his case. He had been working for a contractor on some building, whose failure caused him to lose his work and also his back pay—forty-five dollars. It was just after a little baby had come and the man had not been able to get other work. When a bag of coal was given to him the grateful tears stood in his eyes. "I can't thank you enough," he said brokenly, "but if there's any coal to be carried to women or sick folks that can't come after it, I'd be only too glad to do it for nothin', whenever you want it."

CHICAGO COMMONS JOTTINGS.

For the first time in thirty years of continuous service the warden of Chicago Commons has been granted a leave of absence from professional duty for the last two months of the present academic year. To take advantage of this respite and spend the spring and summer abroad in needed rest and social observation, only one condition remains to be supplied. That is the subscription or guarantee of enough money to sustain the work of Chicago Commons, at least until he returns. So narrow has the margin been between just enough and worse than nothing that during all these eight years of gratuitous Settlement service the warden has never dared to intermit for a single month, his self-imposed burden of raising money for the support and equipment of the Commons' work, nor remain any longer beyond the reach of immediate recall. Duty to the Settlement not only but to the enlarged sphere of academic service awaiting him in the autumn, demands that fullest advantage be taken of this first opportunity for recreation and study abroad.

The financial situation, upon meeting which before the middle of March, the proposed relief depends, stands thus to date: The payment of \$1,000 upon the debt since January 15 leaves a balance of \$8,000, of which \$3,550 are guaranteed and \$4,450 are due and must be raised on or before April 1. The response received during January to our annual appeal for the support of the work during 1903, was not more than sufficient to meet the current expenses of the month, over and above the drafts made upon it to help pay the notes falling due during last month. The balance of the year's support, \$8,930, remains to be provided, \$6,640 of which, covering the eight months of the warden's contemplated absence, must be furnished or guaranteed a month in advance of his going, if he shall be free to leave.

In response to the offer of the Armour Institute of Technology to conduct courses in all branches of engineering, fifty-nine men enrolled. They meet three instructors weekly, on Monday evenings, and have the combined advantages of correspondence work and the personal attention of expert teachers.

Prof. William L. Tomlins' conditioned his leadership of our children's chorus upon having at least 150 boys and girls to start with, and 250 as the full number. When the doors were opened for the first rehearsal 515 young

ones rushed in like the atmosphere, and from sixty to a hundred more were clamoring for admittance when the doors had to be closed. Two weekly choruses of 175 voices each were formed, with waiting lists of 100 each held in reserve as a healthful incentive to the regularity and fidelity of those so fortunate as to be listed.

LAST MONTH'S FREE FLOOR.

The appearance of Dr. Lyman Abbott as the first speaker on the month's program was made the occasion of a delightful dinner party in his honor, at which guests who rarely or never met before, even at the bidding of Settlement hospitality, met and mingled in the freest fraternal fellowship. Prof. Tomlins held the interest of a very mixed crowd of men for over an hour with his flashes of wit and genius in expounding his theory of music in relation to life and labor. At the discussion of the limitation of output, which we will report and comment upon, besides the usual attendance of working men, there were present a debating club of young men from the Y. M. C. A. and twenty-five students from Prof. Vincent's class in the sociological department at the University of Chicago.

The social extension of the public school system to comprehend a more complete education of the rank and file of the people was presented by Mr. T. Tsanoff of Toledo, Ohio, who is enthused and enthuses others with the possibilities of our American free schools.

February Topics and Speakers.

Feb. 3.—"Medieval Cities," by Prof. George L. Scherger.

Feb. 10.—"Law and Labor," by William Hard, of the Chicago Tribune.

Feb. 17.—"Interest of Labor in Municipal Franchises," by Geo. C. Sykes.

Feb. 24.—"Workingmen's Interest in the Enactment and Enforcement of Local Legislation," by Fletcher Dobbins.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTIES.

For the freedom and heartiness of social intercourse characterizing the Saturday open house nights this winter, these simple and very genuinely joyous occasions are almost idyllic. We have never had anything approach them in these respects, which is due to the fact that time is ripening the neighborly relationships under a roof where all are equally welcome.

